

## **DENTURE ADHESIVES**

It is our opinion that long term uncontrolled use of denture adhesives may lead to unfavorable tissue changes, compromise oral hygiene and create a false security by allowing patients to continue to wear ill-fitting dentures. With the current technologies in dental implants, denture adhesives can be eliminated completely with an implant supported prosthesis. However, denture adhesive is still an important adjunct for patient who does not have ideal ridge form or proper neuromuscular control of their prosthesis or not a good candidate for dental implants therapy. Please consult with your prosthodontist about the proper use of denture adhesives when needed.

## **CLEANING**

Any of the commercial denture cleaners can be used. Please ask us for the name of the best denture cleanser presently available. Dentures should be thoroughly cleaned daily with a denture brush and cleaner. It is the meticulous brushing that is most effective in removing bacterial plaque and stains. Do not use toothpaste as it is too abrasive and will scratch the denture. A home cleaning solution for those dentures that do not contain metal components is 1 tbsp. Clorox and 2 tbsp. of Calgon Water Softener dissolved in a cup of water. If a white, hard chalky tartar or calculus forms on the denture, soaking it overnight in 1/2 vinegar and 1/2 water may soften the deposits enough to permit removal for the oral soft tissues is also important.

Caring for the oral soft tissue is also important. A soft toothbrush or washcloth should be used to scrub the tongue, gums, and roof of the mouth. Warm salt water rinses in the morning and evening are also recommended. Finger massage of the gums has also been proven effective in maintaining healthy tissue.

Do not use very hot water to soak the plastic denture since it may result in warpage. Such changes may also result from the denture being exposed to dry air for long periods.

## **PERIODIC MAINTENANCE APPOINTMENTS**

Periodic exams are advised to evaluate the dentures and examine the remaining soft tissues. Generally, these should be every 6 months.

## **POLICY ON ADJUSTMENTS AND REPAIRS**

Although there can never be a guarantee on medical and dental treatment we will provide whatever adjustments are necessary for a period of six months following delivery. Repairs related to defects caused by our laboratory will, of course, be repaired without charge.

## **LONGEVITY**

No dentures are meant to last forever. We feel that 6-8 years is the average life span of a well made appliance. Generally, the denture will require a relines every couple of years to maintain an ideal fit.

## **PARTIAL DENTURES**

Partial denture patients may follow many of the same guidelines outlined above. Additional pointers include:

1. Do not use a **Clorox** based cleaner.
2. Do not "bite" the appliance into place as this may loosen or break clasps.
3. Avoid biting against upper front artificial teeth as these may break rather easily.

## **IMMEDIATE DENTURES**

If dentures are inserted the day the teeth are removed, remember to leave the denture in place during the first 24 hours. Follow normal post-extraction recommendations. Immediate denture patients will be scheduled for an adjustment appointment usually the day after delivery.

Immediate denture is usually considered an interim prosthesis until proper healing of the soft tissues have occurred. A new complete denture is usually necessary after 4-6 months of tissues healing or a laboratory relines will be necessary to accommodate the changes in the ridges from the date of extraction. Many times a new denture is required to meet the functional and esthetic requirement of the patient as the immediate denture may not meet their specific concerns.

Please remember to call for an appointment if you need more information or an adjustment appointment.

